
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5583

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Regala, Hargrove, McAuliffe, Stevens and Carrell

Read first time 01/28/2005. Referred to Committee on Human Services & Corrections.

1 AN ACT Relating to older children who are victims of abuse or
2 neglect; adding a new section to chapter 26.44 RCW; and declaring an
3 emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 26.44 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall develop a curriculum designed to train the
8 staff of the department's children's administration who assess or
9 provide services to adolescents on how to screen and respond to
10 referrals to child protective services when those referrals may involve
11 victims of abuse or neglect between the ages of eleven and eighteen.
12 At a minimum, the curriculum developed pursuant to this section shall
13 include:

14 (a) Review of relevant laws and regulations, including the
15 requirement that the department investigate complaints if a parent's or
16 caretaker's actions result in serious physical or emotional harm or
17 present an imminent risk of serious harm to any person under eighteen;

18 (b) Review of policies of the department's children's

1 administration that require assessment and screening of abuse and
2 neglect referrals on the basis of risk and not age;

3 (c) Explanation of safety assessment and risk assessment models;

4 (d) Case studies of situations in which the department has received
5 reports of alleged abuse or neglect of older children and adolescents;

6 (e) Discussion of best practices in screening and responding to
7 referrals involving older children and adolescents; and

8 (f) Discussion of how abuse and neglect referrals related to
9 adolescents are investigated and when law enforcement must be notified.

10 (2) As it develops its curriculum pursuant to this section, the
11 department shall request that the office of the family and children's
12 ombudsman review and comment on its proposed training materials. The
13 department shall consider the comments and recommendations of the
14 office of the family and children's ombudsman as it develops the
15 curriculum required by this section.

16 (3) The department shall complete the curriculum materials required
17 by this section no later than December 31, 2005.

18 (4) The department shall train the child protective services
19 workers who screen intake calls on how to screen and respond to
20 referrals that may involve victims of abuse or neglect between the ages
21 of eleven and eighteen. The training shall be based substantially on
22 the curriculum developed pursuant to this act and shall be completed by
23 December 31, 2005.

24 (5) The department shall use the curriculum to train all children's
25 administration staff responsible for assessing or providing services to
26 older children and adolescents by April 30, 2006.

27 (6) The department shall include the curriculum in its training of
28 all new employees of children's administration.

29 (7) The department shall keep a record of all of the employees who
30 have attended the training required by this section.

31 (8) The department shall review a sampling of not less than thirty
32 percent of the screening decisions by child protective services related
33 to children between the ages of eleven and eighteen on a quarterly
34 basis through June 30, 2007. The department shall use the results of
35 the quarterly reviews required by this section to improve practice and
36 to improve the curriculum required by this section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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